

this simple yet great man who only refers to himself as "Fanny's Boy." I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing Freddie many more years of happiness, and thanking him for his service as a great father and great American.

CONGRATULATIONS ON SENATE
PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION CRE-
ATING CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Rep. BARBARA LEE of California for her leadership in championing legislation that would designate a national Caribbean-American Heritage month.

I am looking forward to the signing of this legislation by the President and to having the first celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month later this year. We as a nation will enthusiastically participate in this celebration in recognition and gratitude for the contributions made by our Caribbean-American communities. We have been richly blessed by this immigrant community who have followed and achieved their American dream through hard work and devotion to self-improvement.

As you know Mr. Speaker, the United States Senate earlier this month unanimously approved the legislation, H. Con. Res. 51, introduced by Rep. LEE last year. Last summer, the bill was approved by the House of Representatives and had 81 co-sponsors and support from more than 40 non-governmental organizations working on Caribbean-American issues. As the most senior Democratic woman on the House International Relations Committee, and a member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Rep. LEE has worked to strengthen U.S.-Caribbean relations and wanted to raise awareness about the role that Caribbean people and their descendants have played in the United States by introducing the bill.

As an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 51, I am ecstatic that the lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in the House and the Senate lent their support to such a worthy bill. The Caribbean people have been a blessing both to the 15th Congressional District of New York and the country. There have been many influential Caribbean-Americans in U.S. history who have changed the fabric of this fine nation. Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President, had familial roots in Barbados. The parents of Colin Powell, the first African-American Secretary of State, were Jamaican. In the area of the arts, Celia Cruz, the world-renowned queen of Salsa music, was Cuban, while the parents of Sidney Poitier, the first African-American actor to receive the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role, hailed from the Bahamas.

It is undeniable that great patriots of the United States have cultural roots in the beautiful countries of the Caribbean. Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Rep. LEE on her hard work to advance this legislation and lawmakers in both the House of Representatives and the Senate on passing H.

Con. Res. 51. I also hope you will join me in urging the President to designate the month of June for annual national recognition of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE "BLUE & GOLD" WITH
CUB SCOUT PACK 60

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I recognize the young men from Cub Scout Pack 60 from Buffalo, New York as they celebrate the traditions and contributions of the Boy Scouts of America on this the 76th anniversary of Cub Scouting.

Since 1910 Cub Scouts have embraced their motto "Do Your Best" and promoted the values of: citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect, and responsibility among its membership.

Today we have more than 885,000 Cub Scouts across America, learning valuable life lessons through the scouting program, who will be the next generation of leaders.

On Sunday, March 5, 2006 Pack 60 will celebrate the Anniversary of Scouting with a "Blue & Gold" dinner; blue representing truth, spirituality, steadfast loyalty and the sky above and gold which stands for warm sunlight, good cheer and happiness.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize Cub Scout Pack 60 whose members have learned at a very young age the importance of teamwork and giving back to one's community. We should be proud knowing they are this Nation's future.

H.R. 4682, THE HONEST LEADER-
SHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT
ACT: DEMOCRATS LEAD THE NA-
TION ON LOBBYING REFORM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, our country was established as a government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people.' The Republican majority has turned it into a government of, by, and for a few of the people. We need to address the Republican culture of corruption and lead the charge to restore honor and dignity to the House of Representatives. America can do better. The American public deserves better.

Mr. Abramoff and his associates have clearly broken the law. It takes two to tango. I believe Republican Members of Congress who put America up for sale should also be held accountable for their corrupt dealings and "pay for play" politics that put special interests first at the expense of the priorities of the American people.

Americans pay when lobbyists are granted special access in the legislative process and democratic procedures are abandoned on the floor of the House. Americans pay for the cost

of corruption in many ways: a prescription drug bill that puts the greed of pharmaceutical companies ahead of the need of senior citizens for affordable prescription drugs; energy legislation that gives tax breaks and subsidies to oil companies while Americans pay record prices at the pump and for home-heating; and a waiver of liability so that vaccine manufacturers can profit while Americans can be hurt.

To end this culture of corruption and restore integrity and openness to the House, Democratic Leader PELOSI and my Democratic colleagues have introduced the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act that will eliminate the K Street Project that trades legislative access for Republican-only employment, stop the revolving door between government and lobbyists, end the "dead of night" special interest provisions, prohibit cronyism in key appointments, and eliminate contracting abuses like those benefiting Halliburton. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to enact and vigorously enforce needed reforms.

I am, however, concerned with the proposal to ban all privately-funded congressional travel without making a distinction between social or recreational trips and educational travel. Travel that includes lobbyists funding lawmakers to go to luxurious resorts for golf trips is abuse of House rules, and I believe we need to put an end to it.

But fact-finding trips on the other hand are an important way to educate members of Congress about issues. Banning them would make it harder for Members to get real-world understanding of matters that arise in Capitol Hill. I want to make sure that nonprofit organizations, whether they undertake no lobbying or devote a very small percentage of their budgets to lobbying, are not precluded from taking members on these trips because of this bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

The intention of our Founding Fathers was for Congress to be a marketplace of ideas. Democrats are leading the effort to once again put power where it belongs—in the hands of the American people. I look forward to enacting real reform that addresses serious ethical abuses, increases the transparency and openness of government, and enforces the rules and laws already on the books.

RECOGNIZING MR. RONALD L.
BOOK

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 25, 2006, Ronald L. Book was awarded the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals who have exhibited humanitarian concerns and whose efforts bring together people of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Book serves as a member of the University Outreach Development Council at Florida International University and is Board Member Emeritus of the Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital & Foundation. He is chairman of the Dade County Homeless Trust and its executive committee and serves as outside advisor

to the Broward Community Partnership on the Homeless.

He is also an active participant in South Florida's business community. Mr. Book is a trustee and Council of 100 members of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and was the Director and Special Counsel for former Florida Governor, Bob Graham's Cabinet.

Mr. Book earned a Juris Doctorate at Tulane University and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Florida International University. He currently practices in Aventura and Tallahassee. Of all his accomplishments, Ron and his wife, Pat, are most proud of their children, Lauren (20), Samantha (18) and Chase (13).

For his exemplary and inspirational work, reflecting the goals and aspirations of the ADL, I congratulate Ronald L. Book on this distinguished honor.

RECOGNITION OF 2006 WINTER OLYMPIC ATHLETES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all of the Olympic athletes who competed last month at the Winter Games in Turin, Italy. The Olympic Games have always sought to bring people together in peace to respect universal moral principles. They give the finest athletes in the world the chance to compete with pride and honor. I am proud that three of my constituents from East Rutherford, New Jersey, in my Ninth Congressional District, competed among the world's best at the 2006 Winter Olympics. Brian Gionta, Scott Gomez, and Brian Rafalski were all members of the Men's United States Olympic Ice Hockey Team.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to especially honor these three young men who have distinguished themselves in the sport of ice hockey, and proudly represented the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUNLIGHT RULE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." In order to shine sunlight on the practices of the House of Representatives, and thus restore public trust and integrity to this institution, I am introducing the sunlight rule, which amends House rules to ensure that Members have adequate time to study a bill before being asked to vote on it. One of the chief causes of increasing public cynicism regarding Congress is the way major pieces of legislation are brought to the floor without Members having an opportunity to read the bills. This is particularly a problem with the Appropriations conference reports, which are often rushed to the floor of the

House in late-night sessions at the end of the year. For example, just this past December, the House voted on the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Appropriations Conference Report at approximately 4 a.m.—just 4 hours after the report was filed. Yet, the report contained language dealing with avian flu, including controversial language regarding immunity liability for vaccine manufacturers, that was added in the House-Senate conference on the bill. Considering legislation on important issues in this manner is a dereliction of our duty as the people's elected representatives.

My proposed rule requires that no piece of legislation, including conference reports, can be brought before the House of Representatives unless it has been available to Members and staff in both print and electronic version for at least 10 days. My bill also requires that a manager's amendment that makes substantive changes to a bill be available in both printed and electronic forms at least 72 hours before being voted on. While manager's amendments are usually reserved for technical changes, oftentimes manager's amendments contain substantive additions to or subtractions from bills. Members should be made aware of such changes before being asked to vote on a bill.

The sunlight rule provides the people the opportunity to be involved in enforcing the rule by allowing a citizen to move for censure of any House Member who votes for a bill brought to the floor in violation of this act. The sunlight rule can never be waived by the Committee on Rules or House leadership. If an attempt is made to bring a bill to the floor in violation of this rule, any member could raise a point of order requiring the bill to be immediately pulled from the House calendar until it can be brought to the floor in a manner consistent with this rule.

Mr. Speaker, the practice of rushing bills to the floor before individual Members have had a chance to study the bills is one of the major factors contributing to public distrust of Congress. Voting on bills before Members have had time to study them makes a mockery of representative government and cheats the voters who sent us here to make informed decisions on public policy. Adopting the sunlight rule is one of, if not the, most important changes to the House rules this Congress could make to restore public trust in, and help preserve the integrity of, this institution. I hope my colleagues will support this change to the House rules.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Innovation and Competitiveness Act.

The Framers of our system of government realized that innovation was essential to the success of the United States. They embodied this strong belief in Article I Section 8 of our Constitution, which lays the framework for our nation's copyright and patent laws. The Framers realized that American innovation was so

important that it merited specific reference and protection in our founding document.

Today, America is the world leader in innovation. However, to ensure that America remains the world leader, we must again take a hard look at our policies to make sure that they still encourage inventors to create and businesses to grow and expand.

Every business and individual must weigh the advantages and the hurdles when making the decisions about whether to bring an idea to the market, expand services to other geographical areas and the like. In addition to market factors, unfortunately, today there are additional hurdles to innovation and growth—excessive litigation, as well as taxation, red tape and regulation imposed by governments.

The Innovation and Competitiveness Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation to get Congress engaged in the business of promoting innovation in America by creating additional incentives for private individuals and businesses to create and rollout new products and services so that America will remain the world leader in innovation. Government sometimes is the problem—not the answer to the problem—so the Innovation and Competitiveness Act also addresses government-imposed hurdles to innovation by clearing the way for inventors and businesses to do what they do best—create and compete.

Specifically, this legislation will promote research and development by permanently extending the R&D tax credit. Companies know best how to spend their money on research and development, not government bureaucracies.

In addition, excessive red tape and confusing rules regarding tax liability are currently stifling businesses from moving across State lines. Increasingly, States are taxing businesses outside their borders for the right to do business within the State even when those out-of-State businesses have minimal contacts with the taxing jurisdictions. Given this environment, some businesses have made the decision that it is not worth expanding to other jurisdictions because of the ambiguity about when they must pay these taxes and the fear of aggressive taxation and the resulting litigation and compliance costs. The Innovation and Competitiveness Act contains provisions to set clear, bright line rules for when out-of-State businesses would be obliged to pay taxes to a jurisdiction. This bill creates a physical presence test such that States could only collect business activity taxes from businesses with employees or property in the taxing State. This will create the clarity necessary for businesses to grow beyond State lines, and offer new and exciting products and services to consumers.

In addition, excessive litigation hampers investment and innovation. With that in mind, this legislation cracks down on frivolous lawsuits by strengthening sanctions against attorneys who file truly frivolous actions.

Furthermore, rising health care costs are one of the most difficult challenges facing individuals, businesses and manufacturing today. The Innovation and Competitiveness Act contains provisions that will allow individuals to purchase health insurance that best suits their needs and budgets, while also promoting competition in health care. In addition, our bill encourages the use of health information technology, which will improve health quality and